

Saucers, Autumn 1958

HOW TO FILM UFO's

CLIFF DE LACEY, a Vallejo, Calif., junior college student, reports photographing several of nine UFO's he observed about 4 p.m. on January 3, 1958, from his relatives' back yard near Diamond Head, Hawaii.

Startled by the aerial formation, "I yelled at my wife, then dashed into the house for my camera and tripod," he said later. At first he ignored the tripod, but after a few seconds, he regained his composure and attached his 8mm camera to it. An estimated 90 seconds of the UFO maneuvers were recorded on color film (18 feet?).

Fortunately, DeLacey captured the tops of trees, for reference points, near the end of his exposure.

ACCORDING TO THE VALLEJO Times-Herald, January 19, 1958, "there is absolutely nothing about their shape that calls to mind an aircraft of any description. They are spherical, not elongated; no tail fins are visible, nor can anything resembling a wing be distinguished."

After concluding his filming, DeLacey called the Honolulu weather station. They and the Air Force reportedly said there were no balloons in the air at the time. The observer thinks the objects were traveling too fast, anyway.

Two "very distinctly round objects" are supposedly clearly reproduced on the film. In one scene, one of the UFO's is in the center of the screen as the other rapidly approaches it. (3)

THE WRITERS have carefully studied as many of the above films as possible from the critical standpoint of quality and usefulness. Having established that good motion pictures of unidentified aerial phenomena can be extremely valuable in resolving the enigma, we undertook a rather intensive survey of equipment and techniques useful for this research.

The material to follow will not be directed to the 8mm amateur photographers, for we feel that his equipment will be inadequate to sufficiently resolve any unusual phenomena unless it were relatively close. But the 8mm cinematographer should gain some valuable instruction and ideas by bearing with us.

THE CAMERA. We feel that the Kodak K-100 and Bell & Howell Model #240 16mm cameras are the two most satisfactory available for UFO's, although they are somewhat expensive. Both have become available only in recent years; both have long spring runs (40 ft. and 32 ft. respectively) for extended following of action, and both are noted for overall quality and workmanship. Personal preference should dictate the choice. Because its shutter speed can be reduced to 8 frames per second (fps), the #240 might be slightly superior to the K-100 (limited to 16 fps) for night photography; on the other hand, its

(Cont.)